



HEALTHY BITS

Healthy Bits – A Newsletter Published by Community Health of South Florida, Inc.

CHI INTRODUCES DENTAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

A new chapter unfolds for the Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. Teaching Health Center with the introduction of a dental residency program. Leading the way is Dr. Richard Lipscomb, Jr. who was introduced as the new dental director for the program. With a vision for excellence and commitment to nurturing the next generation of dental practitioners, Dr. Lipscomb, Jr. brings more than 23 years of experience, elevating the program to new heights. This marks an exciting new chapter for Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) and aspiring dental professionals alike.

“I am excited to join this new dental residency program,” said Dr. Lipscomb, Jr. “I worked previously as a dental director in Washington, D.C. and my desire is to pass on what I have learned throughout my career to these residents.”

The residency will be recognized as an Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program and will accommodate four dental residents, including two first-year residents and two second-year residents. During this two-year residency, there will be a blending of curriculum learning with hands-on clinical experience, making sure that residents are equipped with the skills and knowledge for success in their careers.

“They will be learning everything from oral surgery, extractions, root canals, and more,” said Dr. Lipscomb, Jr. “I want to make sure that they receive a great education, and I envision that they will see patients, really getting into the grind of dentistry.”

Dr. Lipscomb, Jr. notes that dentistry has its unique challenges compared to family medicine and behavioral health. The profession demands physical endurance, with dentists often spending long hours performing procedures using drills and other tools that can put strain on the body. He plans to reinforce to residents the importance of monitoring their health and practicing proper techniques when on the job.

“This is just the beginning of their journey,” Dr. Lipscomb, Jr. said. “If you want to work in dentistry for a long time, the biggest thing is focusing on your well-being. I try to instill these details so that their career will be less stressful on the body for them.”

The program’s mission is to expose residents to every detail of providing dental care in a



Dr. Richard Lipscomb, Jr. joins CHI as Dental Director for the Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. Teaching Health Center.

community health center setting, particularly for underserved populations. By immersing them in diverse clinical environments, they will gain invaluable experience and develop a deep understanding of oral health care.

“There is a need for more providers in underserved areas,” said Dr. Lipscomb, Jr. “If we can make residents aware of that need and their heart desires to go in that direction, that is great!”

PRESIDENT / CEO MESSAGE



I am a patient here at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI). In fact, my wife and kids are also patients. When I think about the care that my family receives from the team at CHI, sometimes I get emotional. Our doctors, nurses and care team have watched my children grow from birth until now: at the ages of 11 and twins aged 9. They have been part of our lives through good times and bad, all the milestones and then some. The words “medical home” mean a lot to us. Oftentimes, as I’m out in the community, people approach me to tell me stories about how the team at CHI has made a difference in their lives and their families. It’s why I have built a career here as I know I am investing myself in changing lives. It’s a mission the team here believes in, and it shows in the care they provide.

March 29 is Doctors Day and it’s a time when we celebrate all our talented and dedicated physicians. Their path has not been easy to obtain all the knowledge and experience necessary to care for the rest of us. I hope you will take the time to thank your doctor for the high-quality, compassionate healthcare they provide to all of us.

Finally, you can be a part of ensuring access to care. I am hoping you will hit the green with me on April 8th at the world class, Deering Bay Yacht and Country Club for our annual golf tournament. You can register to play at chisouthfl.org/golf. It’s an event that you don’t want to miss as you can swing with celebrities and it’s all for a worthy cause. The money raised from the tournament will help us fund the Children’s Crisis Center, a place to treat kids with severe mental illness. We are already building this special place, and I’m enthusiastic about the progress and support. Let’s build together. We are investing in young lives. Little ones who will grow with us just as my family has and will continue to do thanks to the team at CHI.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blake Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Yours Truly,

Blake Hall

GIVING BACK: CHI'S ANNUAL EVENT PROVIDES FREE DENTAL CARE TO KIDS

CHI centers buzzed with excitement as children and parents eagerly awaited their appointments for Give Kids a Smile Day. This annual event offers free dental care to children ages 1-16 and this year 138 children received a range of dental services including cleanings, oral screenings, sealants and more. Since 2019, Give Kids A Smile Day has provided young patients with comprehensive care for their oral health needs. By offering these essential services free of charge, CHI proves its dedication to improving the well-being of the South Florida community.

CHI dentist, Dr. Malena Fernandez, saw firsthand the positive impact of dental education on these families.

“Many parents that come in are unaware that their children’s teeth should be flossed,” she said. “They are grateful for the information that we provide. We have a real opportunity to educate parents on improving their children’s oral hygiene.”

Dr. Fernandez also notes that about 90% of children and parents that come to this event are first-time patients of CHI. This creates an opportunity for patients to become familiar with CHI services and to consider it as their medical home.

“In the 5 years that I have participated in this event I always see patients return to CHI,” said Dr. Fernandez. “I just feel so grateful and happy that we could help these children with their oral health.”



CHI dental hygienist, John Palacios, smiles with young patient Maggie Carrillo after her dental cleaning appointment.

BREAKING THE CHAINS:

CHI'S MISSION TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Human trafficking is the second most common criminal act in the United States.

Human trafficking is the second most common criminal act in the United States behind drug trafficking. Due to the alarming rise in cases, Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) has pledged to collaborate with other federally qualified health centers across Florida to train employees on recognizing and responding to the signs of trafficking.

"When we think about human trafficking we mainly think about sex trafficking, but it is also happening in the workforce as well," said Eunice Hines, Director for Migrant Health Services and Outreach. "It is modern day slavery."

Under Florida Statute 787.06, human trafficking is a crime committed when a person benefits from transporting, soliciting, recruiting, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person for labor, services, or commercial sexual activity. There are four different types of human trafficking: sex trafficking, labor trafficking, forced marriage, and involuntary servitude.

CHI clinical staff are trained to handle patients who may be victims of human trafficking and are having difficulty communicating that they are in danger. The organization is now committed to ensuring all 700 employees, including non-clinical staff members, are equipped with the proper tools and training.

"We are incorporating an interactive training course that will provide resources to staff," said Hines. "As an organization, we are putting policies in place to follow the appropriate channels when reporting cases to keep victims and our staff safe."

Hines also notes that it is crucial to recognize the underserved and migrant population that we care for at CHI, where it may be possible to overlook warning signs of human trafficking or abuse due to cultural norms.

"Sometimes we see male partners accompanying an OB/GYN appointment with their significant other and they may answer questions for their spouse," she said. "It is easy to think that it is a cultural trait for the spouse to answer for the wife, but now with this education, we are digging a bit more. We can never assume."

Many victims will end up going to medical centers for help and it is crucial to know the signs. Spotting the traits of human trafficking could make a difference between life or death.

**National Human Trafficking
Hotline: 888-373-7888
Text Info or Help to BEFREE**

OUR COMPASSIONATE TEAM SERVING YOU



Alexander Guzman, RN, at the Doris Ison Health Center

Alexander Guzman, RN, serves as a registered nurse at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI). He has worked at the Doris Ison Health Center for 4 years, initially starting as a volunteer. Guzman began his nursing career in 2018 after retiring from the hotel industry for 6 years. As a young child, he always had a desire to pursue nursing. He made that dream come true when he attended nursing school at Florida Career College and obtained his nursing license. Guzman is fulfilled knowing that he is working for an organization that takes care of the community and hopes to continue the mission that Doris Ison started more than 50 years ago. Originally from the Dominican Republic, Guzman spent a few years in New Jersey when he first immigrated to America. He enjoys traveling, skiing and being with family and friends.

Alfred Parker is CHI's Senior Deputy Chief of Security and is otherwise known as "Chief Parker." He began his career at CHI 21 years ago as a security officer. For two decades, he has dedicated his efforts to protecting staff and patients, creating a safe environment for all who walk through CHI's doors. As Senior Deputy Chief, his duties include overseeing his security staff and reporting findings to the Chief of Security. Chief Parker thrives amidst the unique challenges of his job, finding joy in teamwork. With years of security experience, his role feels like second nature to him now. His primary goal is to advance CHI's security department to better safeguard patients and staff members. Chief Parker enjoys working out, fishing and relaxing during his free time.



Senior Deputy Chief of Security, Alfred Parker, outside the Doris Ison Health Center